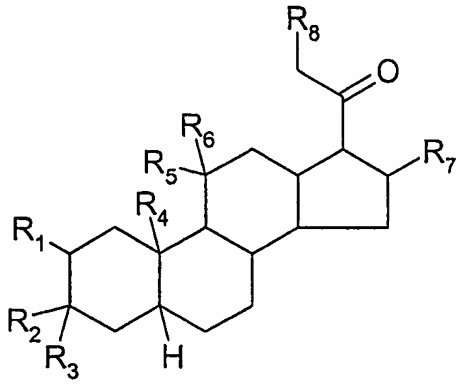
In The Claims:

Claims 1-11 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Please add new claims 12- as follows:

12. (new) A method for reducing opioid tolerance in a patient undergoing treatment with that opioid who has become tolerant thereto as a result of that treatment, comprising;

administering to said patient an effective amount of a compound of formula (I)



(I)

wherein

R1 is selected from the group consisting of H and methyl;

R2 is OH;

R3 is H;

or R2 and R3 taken together are O;

R4 is selected from the group consisting of H and methyl;

R5 and R6 are each H;

or R5 and R6 taken together are O;

R7 is selected from the group consisting of H and methyl;

R8 is selected from the group consisting of H, OH,-OC (=O) CH3, SH,-SC (=O) CH3, Cl, Br and F;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof;

said compound of formula (I) being administered either (i) while the patient is also undergoing treatment with said opioid or (ii) after cessation of treatment with said opioid and prior to resumption of treatment with said opioid.

13. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein said compound of formula (I) is used in a form selected from the group consisting of a solvate, salt, prodrug, and analgesically active metabolite thereof.

14. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein R1 is H.

15. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein R2 and R4 are in the alpha conformation.

16. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein said compound of formula (I) is selected from the group consisting of 21-acetoxy-3-alpha-hydroxy-5-alpha-pregnane-11, 20-dione, 3-alpha-hydroxy-5-beta- pregnane-20-one and 3-alpha-hydroxy-5-alpha-pregnane-20-one.

17. (new) The method of claim 16, wherein said 21-acetoxy-3-alpha- hydroxy-5-alpha-pregnane-11, 20-dione is administered as its acetate or glucuronide.

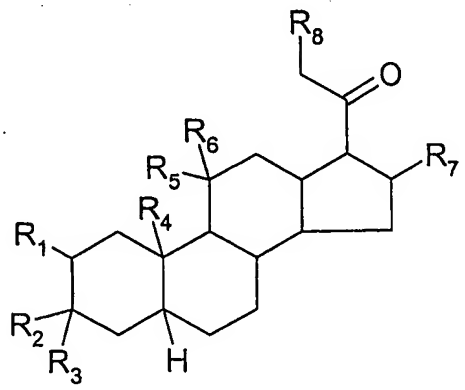
18. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein said opoid is selected from the group consisting of morphine, fentanyl, oxycodone, codeine, dihydrocodeine, dihydrocodeinone enol acetate, desomorphine, apomorphine, pethidine, methadone, dextropropoxyphene, pentazocine, dextromoramide, oxymorphone, hydromorphone, dihydromorphine, noscapine, papaverine, papaveretum, alfentanil, buprenorphine, tramadol and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof.

19. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein said opioid is administered in a manner selected from the group consisting of intravenously, intramuscularly, intraperiotoneally, intragastrically, intestinally, transdermally and intrathecally.

20. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein said compound of formula (I) is administered in an orally administrable pharmaceutical formulation.

21. (new) A kit for reducing opioid tolerance in a patient undergoing treatment with that opioid who has become tolerant thereto as a result of that treatment, comprising;

an effective amount of a compound of formula (I)



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R5 and R6 are each H;

or R5 and R6 taken together are O;

R7 is selected from the group consisting of H and methyl;

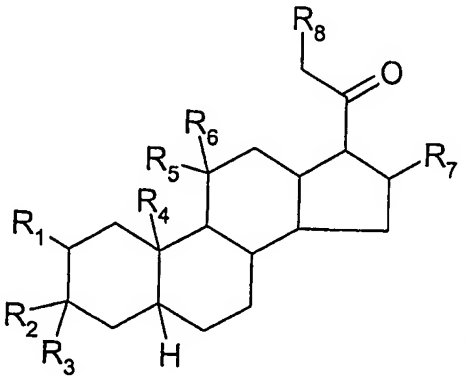
R8 is selected from the group consisting of H, OH,-OC (=O) CH3, SH,-SC (=O) CH3, Cl, Br and F;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof; and

instructions for administration of said compound of formula (I) either (i) while the patient is also undergoing treatment with said opioid or (ii) after cessation of treatment with said opioid and prior to resumption of treatment with said opioid in said kit.

22. (new) A composition for reducing opioid tolerance in a patient undergoing treatment with that opioid who has become tolerant thereto as a result of that treatment, comprising;

a compound of formula (I)



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R4 is selected from the group consisting of H and methyl;

R5 and R6 are each H;

or R5 and R6 taken together are O;

R7 is selected from the group consisting of H and methyl;

R8 is selected from the group consisting of H, OH,-OC (=O) CH3, SH,-SC (=O) CH3, Cl, Br and F;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof;

said compound of formula (I) for administration either (i) while the patient is also undergoing treatment with said opioid or (ii) after cessation of treatment with said opioid and prior to resumption of treatment with said opioid.